

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:
 - at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;
 - an inner electrode coupled with at least half of a circumference of the at least one conductor along a portion of an inner electrode length, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface and inner electrode end surfaces;
 - an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween; and
 - insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void, the insulative material extending between an outer electrode inner surface to at least a portion of the inner electrode outer surface.
2. (Previously Presented) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the inner electrode and the outer electrode are coupled together along at least one coupling projection extending between the inner electrode outer surface and the outer electrode inner surface.
3. (Previously Presented) The lead assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the inner electrode outer surface includes the at least one coupling projection extending therefrom.
4. (Previously Presented) The lead assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the at least one coupling projection is defined in part by a projection outer surface, the projection outer surface including alignment features thereon.
5. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein the outer electrode includes one or more outer electrode alignment features therein.

6. (Previously Presented) The lead assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the outer electrode alignment features include at least one sight hole extending from an outer electrode outer surface to the outer electrode inner surface.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one coupling projection has a cross-section with one or more substantially flat sides.

9. (Withdrawn) The lead assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the inner electrode extends from a first end to a second end, and the at least one coupling projection extends substantially from the first end to the second end.

10. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:

at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end; an inner ring electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner ring electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface and inner electrode end surfaces;

an outer electrode disposed over the inner ring electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner ring electrode, the inner ring electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween;

insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner ring and outer electrodes within the void; and

the inner ring electrode and the outer electrode coupled together along at least one non-annular coupling projection disposed between the inner ring electrode and the outer electrode.

11. (Withdrawn) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the at least one non-annular coupling projection has a coupling projection length substantially as long as the inner ring electrode.

12. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the at least one non-annular coupling projection has a projection length substantially as long as the outer electrode.

13. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the insulating material is a preformed component.

14. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the insulating material includes at least one recess, and the at least one non-annular coupling projection is disposed within the at least one recess.

15. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein the at least one recess is smaller than the at least one non-annular coupling projection.

16. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:

at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;
an inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface, a first end, and a second end, the inner electrode inner surface coupled with, and substantially surrounding, the at least one conductor along a portion of an inner electrode length;
an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween;

insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void, the insulative material extending between the first end and the second end; and

the inner electrode and the outer electrode coupled together along at least one coupling projection disposed between the inner electrode and the outer electrode.

17. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one coupling projection has a projection length substantially as long as the outer electrode.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial Number: 10/813,496

Filing Date: March 30, 2004

Title: ELECTRODE AND INSULATION ASSEMBLY FOR A LEAD AND METHOD THEREFOR

Page 5

Dkt: 279.737US1

18. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein insulation is a preformed component.

19. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein insulation includes at least one recess, and the at least one coupling projection is disposed within the at least one recess.

20. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein the inner electrode includes the at least one coupling projection extending therefrom.

21. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein the at least one coupling projection is defined in part by a projection outer surface, the projection outer surface including alignment features thereon.

22. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 21, wherein the outer electrode includes one or more outer electrode alignment features therein.

23. (Original) A lead assembly comprising:

at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;

an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface, a first end, and a second end;

an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween;

insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void; and

means for aligning the outer electrode with the inner electrode for the coupling process.

24. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 23, wherein the outer electrode includes a sight hole therein.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

coupling a conductor with an inner electrode,

disposing insulative material over the conductor and inner electrode;

disposing an outer electrode over the inner electrode and disposing the insulative material such that insulative material extends between an inner surface of the outer electrode and an outer surface of the inner electrode; and

coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode, including coupling along at least one coupling projection extending between the inner surface of the outer electrode and the outer surface of the inner electrode.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes welding the outer electrode to the inner electrode.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising aligning the outer electrode with the inner electrode prior to coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode, including using alignment features disposed on an outer surface of the at least one projection.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein disposing insulative material over the conductor and the inner electrode includes disposing preformed insulating material having one or more recesses therein.

31. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 30, further comprising disposing the one or more recesses over one or more coupling projections of the inner electrode.

32. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein disposing insulative material includes disposing insulative material extending between a first end of the inner electrode to a second end of the inner electrode.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes coupling the outer electrode with a coupling projection extending outward from the outer surface of the inner electrode.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes coupling the outer electrode with a non-annular coupling projection extending outward from the outer surface of the inner electrode.

35. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:
at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;
an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface and inner electrode end surfaces;
an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode along at least one annular coupling projection, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween; and
insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void, the insulative material extending between an outer electrode inner surface to at least a portion of the inner electrode outer surface.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial Number: 10/813,496

Filing Date: March 30, 2004

Title: ELECTRODE AND INSULATION ASSEMBLY FOR A LEAD AND METHOD THEREFOR

Page 8

Dkt: 279.737US1

36. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:

- at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;
- an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface, a first end, and a second end;
- an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween;
- insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void; and
- means for aligning the outer electrode with the inner electrode for the coupling process, including, at least in part, one or more sight marks on the inner electrode.

37. (Previously Presented) A lead assembly comprising:

- at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;
- an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface, a first end, and a second end;
- an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode, the inner electrode and the outer electrode having a void therebetween;
- insulative material disposed between a portion of the inner and outer electrodes within the void; and
- means for aligning the outer electrode with the inner electrode for the coupling process, including, at least in part, one or more sight marks formed on a coupling projection of the inner electrode.

38. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the insulative material comprises silicone tubing.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial Number: 10/813,496

Filing Date: March 30, 2004

Title: ELECTRODE AND INSULATION ASSEMBLY FOR A LEAD AND METHOD THEREFOR

Page 9
Dkt: 279.737US1

39. (New) The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising forming the inner electrode using at least one of injection molding or EDM.